

## **Region 1 2016 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal**

**National Wildlife Refuge(s):** Ridgefield NWR

**Name of Project:** Invasive Plant Targeted Control and ED/RR

**Contact Person(s):** Keith Rutz, Friends of Ridgefield NWR; Alex Chmielewski, Ridgefield NWRC

**Total amount requested:** \$15,000

**Project Description (20 Points):** The proposed project is a part of the Refuge invasive species management program and will help achieve goals and priority habitats identified in the Refuge CCP. The project will conduct ED/RR surveys over 1,500 acres focusing on known species occurrences and those on the southwest Washington/Willamette Valley watch lists. Control will be focused primarily on those species which currently pose the greatest challenges or are not yet under desired levels of control. Ricefield bulrush and shiny geranium are two species that pose a significant risk to Refuge habitats and will be the primary focus. Other important species that will be treated include yellow flag iris, slenderflower thistle, water primrose willow, fragrant water lily, English holly, and poison hemlock. Other target species will be treated as opportunity or time permits. All funds would be obligated in FY 16. Majority (83%) of the work will take place in FY 16 except for control work on shiny geranium (17 %) which would take place during the dormant season Nov-March in FY 17 to improve effectiveness and reduce impacts to non-target species.

**Invasive Species Prevention:** ED/RR searches under this project will catch and treat new invasions as early as possible to prevent establishment and limit spread.

**Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration:** Control will focus on the most challenging or threatening priority species and on areas for other species not yet under desired control levels which have not been treated recently or in sites that are difficult to access.

**Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring:** 1,500 acres will be searched by Friends staff and experienced volunteers including areas difficult to access, by canoe and on foot.

**Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points):** This project will be directed by the FRNWR Habitat Restoration Coordinator. A Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader will direct the bulrush search and digging project with volunteers help. Volunteers as crews, trained plant hunters, and applicators will search, map, dig, and spray invasives by boat, ATV, and on foot. Refuge and community volunteers are expected to contribute 100 visits for more than 350 hours.

**Other Partners (10 Points):** Information and efforts will be shared with Clark County Vegetation Management, the State of Washington (DNR and WDFW), and 5 private landowners, all in the Ridgefield Columbia Floodplain Cooperative WMA formed in 2011. Some work will occur on private land adjacent to the Refuge, as water levels permit.

**Criteria for Project Success (10 Points):** Approximately 145 acres containing target invasive plants will be spot treated: 70 acres through pulling with volunteer crews and 75 acres by herbicide

treatment. At least 1500 acres will be searched under ED/RR. Three wetlands that support ricefield bulrush will be disked to continue with the on-going the seed bank depletion strategy.

**Budget:**

Salaries and Benefits: Habitat Restoration Coordinator July-Sep FY 16	\$4,500
Salaries and Benefits: Habitat Restoration Coordinator Oct – Mar FY 17	2,500
Salaries and Benefits: Seasonal Bulrush Field Leader June-Sept FY16	8,000
<b>TOTAL requested:</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
Other Contributions:	
Refuge support: Vehicles, fuel, PPE, herbicide, applicator training.	1,000
Refuge Bio Tech seasonal position 8 weeks @ 50% - \$2,200;	2,200
Friends RNWR overhead @ 4% - \$600; volunteer supplies \$700	1,300
Volunteer labor (estimated 350 hours)	8,000
<b>Other Contributions Total:</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>

1/25/2016